

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



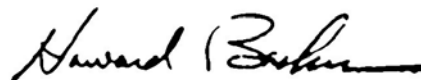
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Governor

September 18, 2006

IZB-FY0607-03

TO: Private Sector Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
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SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccine Availability for VFC Children; and
VFC Vaccine Order Form, DHS IMM 376F.

This memo is divided into sections to enable you to quickly access the information you need:

Section	Page
Summary	1
Vaccine Composition	2
Available Influenza Vaccine Products	2
Eligibility/Recommendations for Vaccine Use	2
Dosage and Administration	4
Storage of Influenza Vaccines	4
Ordering Instructions	4
Billing	5
Return of Unused Vaccines	6
VIS	6
Helpful Resources	6

SUMMARY

On July 28, 2006, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published its annual **Influenza Recommendations (MMWR, July 28, 2006 / 55(RR10);1-42)**, available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5510a1.htm?s_cid=rr5510a1_e. The VFC Influenza Resolution for this current flu season can also be found online at: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/acip_resolutions/0206influenza.pdf.

This year's recommendations for pediatric influenza vaccination included an increase in age limit for the vaccination of healthy children. According to the new expanded eligibility, all VFC-eligible children aged 6-59 months should receive an annual influenza vaccination. ACIP also emphasized the importance of administering two doses of influenza vaccine to previously unvaccinated children aged six months to nine years.

Beginning September 14, 2006, the California VFC Program will accept influenza vaccine orders for the 2006-2007 influenza season. Orders will be accepted throughout the season as supply permits.

A new "Influenza Vaccine Order Form" is enclosed and **must** be used when placing influenza vaccine orders. Since this new form includes additional products that were not available during the previous influenza season, orders submitted prior to this notification must be re-submitted utilizing the new Influenza Vaccine Order Form.

We expect to receive initial supplies of flu vaccine from the manufacturers by early October. The VFC Program will begin delivery of your approved order as soon as the vaccine is in our inventory.

2006-2007 INFLUENZA VACCINE COMPOSITION

The vaccine's composition for this year's flu vaccine is identical to the recommended composition issued by the World Health Organization on February 15, 2006.

Influenza vaccine for use in the 2006–2007 United States influenza season includes the following influenza virus strains:

- A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus;
- A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like virus (A/Wisconsin/67/2005 and A/Hiroshima/52/2005 strains);
- B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus (B/Malaysia/2506/2004 and B/Ohio/1/2005 strains)

AVAILABLE INFLUENZA VACCINES

VFC Program will make available a variety of approved influenza vaccine products for immunization of VFC-eligible children 6 months to 18 years of age during the 2006-2007 influenza season. Please refer to the attached "Approved Influenza Vaccine Products" chart describing available products, presentation, formulation, and recommended ages for use.

Due to a limited supply of preservative-free influenza formulation, preservative-free vaccines should be reserved for administration to children younger than three years of age. The California Mercury Free Act of 2004 took effect July 1, 2006, and states that pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive vaccine doses that contain trace levels or no mercury. [Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 124172, Chapter 837, Statutes of 2004 (AB 2943, Pavley)].

ELIGIBILITY FOR VFC-SUPPLIED INFLUENZA VACCINE

VFC-supplied Influenza vaccine may be used for all VFC-eligible children in the following ACIP recommended groups:

Eligible Groups for Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

- Children aged six months through 59 months.
- Children and adolescents aged five through 18 years with any of the following:
 - Chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
 - Have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).
 - Have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration.
 - Are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may therefore be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza.
 - Are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons at any age who have chronic medical conditions.
- Adolescent females aged <19 years who will be pregnant during influenza season.
- Children and adolescents aged five through 18 years who are household contacts of persons in the following high-risk groups:
 - any children less than five years old;
 - children or adolescents in any of the other groups listed above;
 - any person 50 years or older;
 - adults with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems;
 - adults who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year for chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).

Eligible Groups for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)

- All healthy children and adolescents aged five years through 18 years, particularly:
- Children and adolescents aged five through 18 years who are household contacts of persons in the following high-risk groups, provided that the contacts are not severely immunocompromised (e.g., patients with hematopoietic stem cell transplants) and requiring care in a protective environment:
 - any children less than 5 years old;
 - children or adolescents in any of the other groups listed above;
 - any person 50 years or older;
 - adults with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems;
 - adults who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year for chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

Children under nine years of age, receiving inactivated influenza vaccine for the first time, require two doses, one month apart.

- For children 6-35 months of age, one dose is equivalent to 0.25mL.
- For children >35 months of age, one dose is equivalent to 0.5mL

Children under nine years who received only one dose of influenza vaccine during a prior season are recommended to receive only one dose this season.

Inactivated influenza vaccine should be administered intramuscularly in the anterolateral aspect of the thigh for infants and young children. Adults and older children should be vaccinated in the deltoid muscle.

LAIV

Children aged five – nine years previously unvaccinated with LAIV should receive two doses of LAIV separated by six – ten weeks. Children under nine years who have received one or more doses of any influenza vaccine in the past are recommended to receive only one dose this season.

LAIV is only administered intranasally and it must be thawed before administration. LAIV is supplied in a prefilled single-use sprayer containing 0.5 mL of vaccine. One half of the sprayer's contents (.25 mL) should be sprayed into each nostril. Do not repeat a dose if the patient sneezes after administration of the dose.

STORAGE OF INFLUENZA VACCINES

Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV) should be refrigerated at a temperature range of 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C), with a preferred temperature of 40°F. Do not freeze or expose this vaccine to freezing temperatures.

Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) must be maintained in a continuously frozen state at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. No freeze/thaw cycles are permitted with this vaccine. It may be stored in either a manual defrost freezer or in a frost-free freezer compartment. More detailed information concerning storing and administering this vaccine can be found in the Recommendations for the Handling and Storage of Selected Biologicals (CDC, 2005), available at: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vac_mgt_book.pdf.

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

The enclosed copy of the new **VFC Influenza Vaccine Order Form**, DHS 8501 F (9/06), **must** be used when placing influenza vaccine orders. The order form includes a variety of different products available for the 2006-2007 influenza season. Please retain a copy of submitted order for your records to assist you in placing future orders. You may fax your completed influenza vaccine order to 1-877-329-9832 (877-FAXX-VFC). In order to avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of your influenza vaccine order, please make sure to follow these steps:

- a. Submit your influenza order utilizing the new VFC Influenza Vaccine Order Form, DHS 8501 F (9/06). **Please do not utilize any other VFC order form to place your vaccine order.** This year's product availability differs from previous seasons and the new form includes additional products that were not listed in previous year's order forms.
- b. If you have placed an influenza vaccine order prior to September 6, please re-submit your order utilizing the new form. These orders will be placed in a "Back Order" listing in the order received. The VFC Program will begin shipments of vaccine as soon as inventories of influenza vaccine are received.
- b. When placing your order, request sufficient influenza vaccine to vaccinate healthy VFC-eligible children 6 to 59 months of age in your practice, as well as high-risk children 5 to 18 years of age. Please note that Influenza vaccine orders will be approved according to your practice's profile estimates and estimate of the proportion of children you will vaccinate.
- c. **You may reorder influenza vaccine as needed throughout the 2006-2007 Flu season.** The VFC Program will continue to ship vaccines as long as our inventory and national supplies last. Unlike all other pediatric vaccines, influenza vaccine supplemental orders may be submitted at any time. You do not have to wait two months in between orders.

If necessary, the VFC Program may adjust the number of doses sent due to demand or limitations on supply.

BILLING NOTES

Medi-Cal: To bill Medi-Cal for vaccines and administration of influenza vaccines, use only CPT-4 codes 90657, 90658, 90659, and 90660 (LAIV). In addition, the **-SK (high risk) modifier** must be used for all influenza vaccines, including LAIV; document your patients high priority category in the patient's medical record (not on the claim form). If VFC vaccine is used, the provider will only be reimbursed for the administration fee. Medi-Cal Program providers who are unable to obtain influenza vaccine from the VFC Program for their Medi-Cal beneficiaries should purchase it privately and bill Medi-Cal using the appropriate CPT-4 codes.

CHDP:

The CHDP program will reimburse for influenza vaccine and its administration.

- If influenza vaccine is provided by the VFC Program use code "53".
- If influenza vaccine is purchased because the vaccine is not available through VFC use code "54".
- The provider must indicate "high risk factor" in the "Comments/Problems" box for code numbers 53 and 54 when used for influenza vaccine administered.
- If Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), intranasally administered is provided by the VFC Program use code "71".

September 18, 2006

- Code 71 is payable for ages five years through eighteen years, eleven months, administration fee only.
- The provider must indicate "For Household Members of Persons with High Risk Factor" in the "Comments/Problems" box for code number 71 when used for influenza vaccine administered.

RETURN OF UNUSED VIALS OF INFLUENZA VACCINE

All VFC Providers must return all expired or spoiled influenza vaccine (including vials, syringes, and nasal sprayer packages) to General Injectables & Vaccines, Inc. (GIV). Return these vaccines to: **General Injectables & Vaccines, Inc. (GIV), Route 21-52, Bastian, VA 24314.**

VIS STATEMENTS

Copies of the current interim Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the Inactivated Influenza Vaccine and the Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), dated 06/30/06, are included in this mailing and are also at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm>. Federal regulation requires that you provide the VIS to a parent or guardian before the child receives influenza vaccine.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

To help you remind parents about new pediatric flu shots recommendations, we are enclosing two copies of the "**Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot**" (IMM-782) self-adhering cling-on flyer. This piece is suitable for posting in a medical office waiting room or patient exam room and requires no tape or thumb tacks. In addition, a sample "**Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot**" (IMM-781) reminder postcard is enclosed. To order additional copies of these materials, VFC providers should contact their local health department. Listings are at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/pdf/lhdlist.pdf>

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at: 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC).

Enclosures - Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (6/30/06)
Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (6/30/06)
VFC Vaccine Order Form, DHS 8501 F (8/06)
"Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot" postcard (IMM-781)
"Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot" cling-on flyers (IMM-782)

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